

Learning to do the job better

A few ideas, from beyond the USA,
on a research agenda for
National Heritage Areas

“Research” or “Learning”?

- Research is about answering difficult questions
- Learning is about knowing what the questions are, and what to do with the answers
- NHAs need to learn and build capacity

A learning agenda for NHAs

- Data collection about NHAs - facts and figures
- research - tackling difficult questions (Nov. 2002 workshop)
- training - skills development
- networking - working with others
- monitoring and evaluation - learning on the job

3 messages from beyond the USA

1 - you are not alone

2- you need international context

3- the power of networking

You are not alone

- Many countries are using heritage to regenerate - developing a sustainable post industrial society
- many countries face a rural crisis - seeking new ways to bring life to rural areas
- everywhere landscapes and communities are under threat
- in response to globalisation, local groups are working to express identity, defend or re-claim their distinctiveness
- common language of SD = economy+society+environment

International Context: IUCN Category V Protected Landscapes and NHAs - similar ideas

- IUCN definition of a Protected Landscape: *“Area of land, with coast and sea as appropriate, where the interaction of people and nature over time has produced an area of distinct character”*
- USNPS definition of a NHA: *“a place where natural, cultural, historic and scenic resources combine to form a (nationally) distinctive landscape arising from patterns of human activity shaped by geography”*

But are NHAs and Protected Landscapes the same? Does it matter?

Two entry points to the same idea:

- NHAs spring from community aspirations and need for economic regeneration - heritage is the means
- PLs spring from landscape, nature conservation, outdoor recreation and rural sustainability - landscape is the means

Both focus on lived-in places that are special, and use similar tools for similar ends

The power of networking - some international opportunities

- review NHAs and place some on the UN List as Category V protected areas
- make connections with IUCN and its Category V TF (Guidelines publication)
- use or develop exchange programmes, partnerships, twinings (e.g. UK-North American exchange) - area/area; community/community

The power of networking - some international opportunities

- nominate one or two NHAs as Cultural Landscape sites for the WH List - will take time
- take message to the World Parks Congress in Durban, September 2003
- develop the international links of the ANHA - great start at Pittsburgh